

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

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PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8027

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

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AMCONSUL IZMIR PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISTANBUL 3671

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, TU

SUBJ: LABOR PROTEST AGAINST RECONSTITUTING STATE SECURITY COURTS

REF: ANKARA 7080

1. RESPONDING TO REVOLUTIONARY WORKER'S TRADE CONFEDERATION (DISK) CALL FOR NATIONAL MOURNING OVER GOVERNMENT COALITION'S DETERMINATION TO RE-ENACT LEGISLATION ON STATE SECURITY COURTS, SIZEABLE PORTION OF ORGANIZED LABOR IN ISTANBUL WALKED OFF JOB AFTERNOON SEPTEMBER 16. ACCORDING TO PRESS APPROXIMATELY 20,000 WORKERS AT THIRTY-EIGHT WORK SITES, INCLUDING SOME OF ISTANBUL'S MAJOR INDUSTRIAL PLANTS, WERE HIT BY PROTEST. CONGEN BUSINESS CONTACTS REPORT THAT DISK ORGANIZERS ASSISTED BY STUDENTS PATROLLED STRIKE SITES IN ATTEMPT TO INSURE COMPLIANCE.

2. MAJORITY OF UNIONS PARTICIPATING IN PROTEST STRIKE WERE MEMBERS OF DISK AND INCLUDE SOME MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES AFFILIATED

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WITH GENEL-IS. GOOD YEAR MANAGER, HOWEVER, TOLD US THAT ALTHOUGH

UNION AT HIS PLANT IS MEMBER OF TURK-IS CONFEDERATION, WORKERS
COMPLIED WITH PROTEST STRIKE UNDER THREAT OF COERCION FROM DISK
ACTIVISTS. LOCAL TURK-IS AFFILIATES' PARTICIPATION MAY NOT
BE SO RELUCTANT AT OTHER WORK SITES. HURRIYET NEWSPAPER
REPORTED THAT LOCAL HEAD OF TURK-IS, ZIYA HEPBIR, HAS BEEN
RELIEVED OF HIS POSITION BY TURK-IS
PRESIDENT HALIL TUNC
BECAUSE OF HIS SUPPORT OF OPPOSITION STAND AGAINST STATE
SECURITY COURTS.

3. PROTEST WALKOUTS ARE TO CONTINUE TODAY (SEPTEMBER 17) WITH THREE
MAJOR TIRE PLANTS TO BE AMONG THOSE HIT. IN ADDITION, DISK HAS
OBTAINED POLICE PERMISSION FOR PROTEST MARCHES TO ISTANBUL'S
CENTRAL TAKSIM SQUARE ON SEPTEMBER 18, 20, AND 21. CITY
IS PLASTERED WITH POSTERS CALLING FOR GENERAL STRIKE.

4. SENIOR POLICE OFFICIAL CONTACTED BY CONGEN EXPECTS LARGE
TURNOUT FOR DISK MARCHES BUT DECLINED TO SPECULATE ON
NUMBERS. WHEN QUERIED, HE SAID THAT TO DATE THERE WAS NOTHING TO
INDICATE PROTESTS WOULD TAKE ON ANTI-AMERICAN OVERTONES.
BATJER

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